

### **REMARKS**

Entry of the foregoing amendment and favorable reconsideration of the subject application is respectfully requested in view of the following comments.

Claims 1-4 are currently pending on the subject application. By the foregoing amendment, claims 1-3 have been cancelled and new claims 5-7, dependent from claim 4 have been added. Accordingly, claims 4-7 are herewith presented for the examiner's consideration.

New claims 5-7 correspond to cancelled claims 1 and 2 presenting the limitations recited therein as dependent from claim 4 thereby further defining the ceramic product recited in claim 4.

No new matter has been entered by this amendment.

### **RESTRICTION**

Restriction to one of the following inventions has been required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

Group I, claims 1-3, drawn to a process of manufacture.

Group II, claim 4, drawn to a product.

The examiner contends that the inventions listed in Groups I and II do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: the process of group I does not necessarily make the product of group II.

Applicants herewith elect the invention of Group II, the

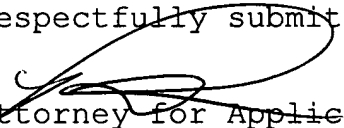
product, and by the foregoing amendment have cancelled claims 1-3.

Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 5-7 presented in the foregoing amendment are properly enterable herein without restriction as they relate to the product of claim 4 as product-by-process and a specific feature or characteristic of the product. New claims 5-6 recite the product of claim 4 as produced by the process limitations while new claim 7 recites a specific feature or characteristic of the product of claim 4 as produced by the process of claims 5 and 6.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the requirement for restriction has been met and that the claims as presented herein are ready for examination on the merits and are allowable over the prior art.

An early notification of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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